

Message Text

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SUBJ EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS AND NEW

ENGLAND GOVERNORS MEETING IN NEW BRUNSWICK

REF HALIFAX A-63, JUNE 13, 1974

1. ON JUNE 16-17 1975 THE PREMIERS OF THE FIVE EASTERN CANADIAN PROVINCES AND THE GOVERNORS OF NEW ENGLAND HELD THEIR THIRD ANNUAL JOINT MEETING, THIS YEAR AT ST. ANDREWS , NEW BRUNSWICK. THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION WAS ENERGY. THE GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TWO DAY MEETING AGREED TO A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO MAXIMIZE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES ON A BASIS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH REGIONS. THE LEADERS AGREEED TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL BY THE END OF 1975 AND WILL HOLD A SPECIAL ONE DAY SESSION ON ENERGY IN JANUARY 1976.

2. AS A PRACTICAL MEASURE IT WAS DECIDED TO SET UP A SPECIAL TASK FORCE OF TOP ENERGY ADVISERS FROM EACH STATE
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AND PROVINCE TO LOOK AT AREAS OF ENERGY POTENTIAL AND

REQUIREMENTS. ONE MAJOR PROPOSAL AGREED TO WAS TO EXAMINE JOINTLY THE FEASIBILITY OF TIDAL POWER AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY AND ITS POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT. THE TASK FORCE WILL ALSO LOOK AT THE UTILIZATION OF PRESENT AND FUTURE DEEPWATER PORTS IN EASTERN CANADA, PIPELINE FACILITIES AND REFINING CAPACITY TO MEET THREATENED SHORTAGES IN THE REGION. IT WILL ALSO EXAMINE ALL OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF ENERGY WHICH COULD BE DEVELOPED.

3. AS THE JOINT MEETING OPENED A NUMBER OF DELEGATES, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE GOVERNORS EXPRESSED FRUSTATION OVER THE APPARENT LACK OF PROGRESS IN GETTING MEANINGFUL PROPOSALS UNDER WAY AND THERE WAS SOME INDICATION THAT THIS JOINT MEETING MIGHT BE THE LAST ONE. HOWEVER, THIS THREAT OF A HALT TO THE MEETINGS SEMMED TO PROVOKE THE PREMIERS AND GOVERNORS INTO MAKING AN EARNEST ATTEMPT AT FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PRESSING PROBLEMS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. ONE OF THOSE WHO MENTIONED A POSSIBLE CESSATION OF THE MEETINGS, GOVERNOR THOMAS SALMON OF VERMONT SAID AT THE END OF THE TWO DAY SESSION THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE THE MOST OPEN AND FRANK OF ANY OF THE CONFERENCES TO DATE AND THAT IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS WERE NOW MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO ENERGY PROBLEMS ON A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BASIS.

4. PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO PREMIER GERALD REGAN OF NOVA SCOTIA WAS THE DECISION TO INCLUDE IN THE TASK FORCE,S DUTIES THE STUDY OF INTER-REGIONAL TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER. HE SAID, QUOTE IT IS AN ABSOLUTE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR TIDAL POWER. IF THE TIDES ARE TO BE DEVELOPED AT THE SIZE NECESSARY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ECONOMY OF SCALE, WE WILL HAVETO HAVE A GRID SYSTEM READY TO EXPORT SOME OF THE POWER TO THE UNITED STATES.UNQUOTE

5. GOVERNOR JAMES LONGLEY OF MAINE IN A PREPARED STATEMENT URGED CANADA NOT TO INTERFERE WITH MAINE'S DECISION TO ALLOW PITTSTON OIL COMPANY TO BUILD A REFINERY AT EASTPORT, MAINE. HE WANTED THE CONFERENCE TO APPROVE HIS STATEMENT BEFORE HE WOULD ACCEPT THE CONFERENCE TDECISION TO SET

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UP THE JOINT TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE ENERGY MATTERS. HOWEVER, PREMIER HATFIELD POINTED OUT THAT THE MATTER WAS A FEDERAL ONE OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE PROVINCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE GOVERNOR DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF THE TASK FORCE. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, THAT HE HOPED THAT OTTAWA WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE SAME UNDERSTANDING, CONCERN AND COOPERATION AS EVIDENCED TODAY BY PREMIER HATFIELD.... AND TO AVOID OR AT LEAST DELAY ANY ACTION DEEMED RESTRICTIVE OR PROTECTIVE

ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE REFINERY. (DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING THE GOVERNOR APPARENTLY MADE CLEAR THAT HE THOUGHT SOME OF CANADA'S OBJECTIONS TO THE EASTPORT REFINERY WERE ECONOMIC RATHER THAN PURELY ENVIROMMENTAL).

6. THE CONFERENCE ALSO AGREED TO INVESTIGATE SETTING UP A JOINT SPECIAL TOURISM PROMOTION VENTURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE MONTREAL OLYMPICS AND THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. A SUGGESTION WAS MADE TO SET UP A HERITAGE TRAIL LINKING HISTORICAL LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND AND EASTERN CANADA.

7. THE GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS DECIDED TO DELAY ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL TO SEKEK TARIFF REDUCTION ON A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC GOODS SAYING THEY WANTED MORE TIME TO EXAMINE THE PROPOSALS BEFORE MAKING A COMMON DECISION.

8. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE OBSERVERS INTERESTED IN ENERGY MATTERS PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE FROM BOTH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
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